evaluation of which would decide prospects for taking up exploratory drilling including selection of drilling site. ONGC has a deep water rig capable of drilling in water depths of upto 900 metre.

(c) and (d) Seventy two blocks were offered to private (Foreign and Indian) companies for oil exploration in 1991. Contracts were signed for five blocks, of which four blocks have/had participating interest by foreign companies. Five wells were drilling in three signed blocks.

(e) The offer of blocks for exploration and exploitation is a continuous process. Since 1991 after the IVth round was announced, four more exploration rounds, one joint venture exploration round and one round under New Exploration Licensing Policy have been announced in which many of the blocks offered under I Vth round in 1991 have been re-offered along with new blocks.

**Mobilisation of Funds by GAIL**

3018. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the MINISTER of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) is planning to mobilise upto Rs. 300 crores from the domestic market during the current year to fund its various projects;

(b) to what extent will GAIL be able to mobilise such resources;

(c) whether GAIL has any proposal to raise in any State-wise manner for projects specific to a given State;

(d) whether GAIL made any attempt to raisefiinds funds in Andhra Pradesh for specific LPG projects in Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. GAIL is planning to mobilise approximately Rs. 300 crore under debt instruments during 2000-01 depending on availability of internal resources and market conditions, for utilisation on specific projects.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.